

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-3,5-12 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art of record do not teach or suggest the following invention: an apparatus for (a method of) discharging liquid droplets of a liquid material, comprising: a metering tube, a plunger, a storage container, a flow passage communicating the metering tube with the storage container, a liquid material supplying valve on the flow passage, a discharge valve disposed at a nozzle side distal end of the metering tube, and a nozzle in communication with the discharge valve; controlling supplying the metering tube with the liquid material by moving the plunger rearward to a first position; moving the plunger forward from the first position and stopping the plunger at a second position, thereby discharging a first droplet from the nozzle; and moving the plunger forward from the second position and stopping the plunger at a third position, thereby discharging a second droplet from the discharge port, wherein the liquid material supplied in the metering tube in a single supplying step is discharged from the discharge port in a plurality of steps of moving the plunger forward, wherein the speed of the plunger from a start of a deceleration to a stop of the plunger is controlled during the steps of moving forward and stopping the plunger such that the first droplet and the second droplet are of the same quantity, without abruptly stopping the plunger.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henok Legesse whose telephone number is (571) 270-1615. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - FRI, 7:30-5:00, ALT.FRI EST.TIME.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Luu can be reached on (571) 272-7663. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MATTHEW LUU/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2861

Henok Legesse
Art Unit 2861
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